

Summary

The local authority audit committee is tasked with assessing the extent to which the operating and financial targets set by the City Council have been achieved in the municipality and the local authority corporation and whether or not the activities are arranged in a cost-effective and appropriate manner. Here are some highlights from the assessment results for 2018.

The children and the young do not have smooth access to mental health services.

The audit committee together with the Capital Region cities and Helsinki University Hospital HUS carried out a joint appraisal of mental health services for children and adolescents. As part of the appraisal, it was observed that the service system is patchy, particularly in Helsinki. The audit committee recommends that the City reorganises its operations and, if necessary, allocates additional resources in order to set up a unit for the evaluation and treatment of mild and intermediate mental health problems among children and adolescents. The unit would also function as a location for special health care follow-up treatment. The Capital Region cities and HUS also made a large number of joint recommendations for the improvement of mental health treatment of children and adolescents. The recommendations related, among other things, to the availability of psychologist services in schools, the access to psychiatric nurses, the designation of a responsible person for each child or young person, and the cooperation between the cities and HUS.

Comprehensive education is regionally equal, but some areas do not have resources that fully meet the needs of the pupils.

There is an increasing demand for special instruction, and hence it is important to make sure that there is a sufficient supply of special teachers. Moreover, the City should clarify how it can allocate appropriations for positive discrimination to take account of the pupils' need for intensified and special support.

There is a diverse supply of services that support informal care of the elderly, but the family caregivers are displeased with how their next of kin are treated while they themselves are away for their statutory days-off.

The quality of the care for those in informal care should be improved in the period when the family caregivers enjoy their statutory days-off. This applies both to round-the-clock care and to care at home.

The price setting of non-subsidised housing and company plots that the City has leased or sold is not transparent, and it is not in all respects in the City's best economic interest.

The new principles for the transfer of plots remedy many of the flaws with current practices, but it is still necessary to improve the transparency and the clarity of the pricing of plots and of the calculation principles and to make sure that there are clear calculation principles for the comparison of selling and leasing.

Helsinki attracts foreign investors. The process of persuading professionals on a grand scale is just about to begin.

The creation of a unified brand for the Capital Region should be advanced and English-language communication about the City's operations and services should be increased.

The City has tried several means to improve the quality of its new construction projects, but instructions and cooperation should be developed.

Helsinki developers should require that all of their contractors provide a construction timetable and good quality risk management, e.g. by requirements that are written into the contract programme.

Helsinki has not yet managed to reduce its emissions substantially, although many measures have been taken. The emissions by Helen Ltd have remained unchanged in years 2016–2018.

Cooperation with the business sector, the city dwellers and the housing cooperatives is increasingly needed to realise the emissions reduction goals. The achievement of the reduction goals for transportation emissions should be promoted by means that are more effective.

The goals of the foremost subsidiaries support the goals of the City. However, there has been a delay in the preparation of the ownership strategy for each subsidiary.

Most urgently, the matter of outlining which companies operate on market terms should be brought to the City Board, and subsequently an ownership strategy should be defined for these companies.